

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A card connector for accepting a card, which has a recess in its side surface, the card connector comprising:

an eject mechanism having an eject member, the eject member being adapted to move in a card insertion direction as the card is inserted into the connector during a card insertion operation and to move in a card eject direction in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece having a locking portion to engage a single side of the card in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed to the eject member; and

a locking piece guide means for guiding the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation and the card insertion operation wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become elastically deformed during the card eject operation to move the locking portion away from the recess of the card and wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become released from the elastic deformation during the card insertion operation thereby causing the elastic locking piece to move toward the card by an elastic recovery force to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.

~~A card connector according to claim 1~~, wherein the locking piece guide means has:

a protruding portion projecting from the elastic locking piece; and
a guide wall formed in the connector housing and having a tapered surface to guide the protruding portion as the eject member moves in the card insertion or eject direction.

3. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 2, wherein:
the locking piece guide means guides the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece thereby causing the locking portion to move away from the side surface of the card and towards a side wall portion of the connector housing during the card eject operation and to move toward the side surface of the card during the card insertion operation causing the locking portion to press against the side surface of the card;
the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects upwardly or downwardly of the connector housing; and
the tapered surface of the guide wall is inclined with respect to the side surface of the inserted card.

4. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to claim 2, wherein:
locking piece guide means guides the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece thereby causing the locking portion to move vertically away from the bottom or top surface of the card during the card eject operation and to move toward the bottom or top

surface of the card during the card insertion operation causing the locking portion to press against the bottom or top surface of the card;

the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects widthways of the connector housing; and

the tapered surface of the guide wall is inclined with respect to the bottom surface of the inserted card.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A card connector according to any one of claims ~~4 to 5~~ 2 to 4, wherein the locking portion of the elastic locking piece is shaped virtually like a hook.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Submitted) A card connector according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the connector housing is formed with a space that prevents the protruding portion from interfering with other members when a second card without the recess is inserted.

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9. (Previously Submitted) A card connector for accepting a card and holding it in a connector housing, wherein the card has a recess in its side surface, the card connector comprising:

an eject mechanism including an eject member, a spring member disposed between the eject member and the connector housing and a locking mechanism for locking the eject member, the eject member being adapted to move in a card insertion direction causing an elastic deformation of the spring member as the card is inserted into the connector during a card insertion operation, to be locked by the locking mechanism, and to move in a card eject direction by an elastic recovery force of the spring member in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece, accommodated in a space formed in the eject member, having a locking portion to engage a single side of the card in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed to the eject member; and

a locking piece guide means, formed in the connector housing, for guiding the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation and the card insertion operation wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become elastically deformed during the card eject operation to move the locking portion away from the recess of the card and wherein the locking piece guide means causes the elastic locking piece to become released from the elastic deformation during the card insertion operation thereby causing the elastic locking piece to move toward the card by an elastic recovery force to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.